

August 12, 1967

Mr. Wes Gallagher
General Manager, The Associated Press
50 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10020

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

From your letter of August 9 I cannot tell whether you are non-responding or non-responsive. At least one of my previously unanswered letters warrants a few more AP words. You can, as you know, muster up to 20,000.

Meanwhile, until you decide, here is another little illumination of the integrity, lucidity, complete impartiality and devotion to nothing but fact. It is your own Lingering Shadow.

The interest that the AP has taken in me is teaching me about news values and coverage, AP-style. It seems that when the New York Times decided my book, PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH: SUPPRESSED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PICTURES, was worth about 40 inches, your New York office asked your Baltimore office to do a story. They kept me pleasantly occupied for perhaps an hour (the first time) but filed no story. From this I learn what is news, what the AP members should get and what their readers may and may not read. It now seems that you went to all this trouble (I know the money means nothing to you) to write a story just in case a member demanded it. When nobody demanded it, it wasn't news and wasn't put on the wire. How efficient! Is this what you call "freedom of the press"?

The part that bothers me, though, when it is for Sunday papers and there are no afternoon papers on Sunday, is how were your members to know about the story you didn't give them so they could ask you for it? Or is this a new service of the New York Times?

You know, for a moment, I thought it was that you are angry about what PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH says about the AP. Strange how silent you have been about that. It really isn't complimentary. It says you suppressed assassination pictures.

I am looking forward to your next non-response, for there is everything to be gained by further correspondence. If you want an itemization, I will be glad to accommodate.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg